

Message Text

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14

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SEC-01 FTC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 EB-07 CAB-02 COME-00 DOTE-00

FAA-00 OMB-01 /069 W

----- 025324

R 021005Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8191

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HAWAII

COMUSJAPAN YOKOTA JAPAN

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMCONSUL KONG KONG

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, JA

SUBJECT: LOCKHEED AFFAIR - TANAKA STATEMENT

1. IN HIS FIRST PUBLIC STATEMENT SINCE THE OUTBREAK OF THE LOCKHEED SCANDALS, FORMER PRIME MINISTER TANAKA DECLARED HIS INNOCENCE BEFORE AN APRIL 2 SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING OF HIS FACTION. READING FROM AN ELEVEN PAGE PREPARED STATEMENT, TANAKA SAID THAT, ALTHOUGH SOME HAD ALLEGED THAT HE HAD CONDUCTED IMPROPER NEGOTIATIONS RELATED TO LOCKHEED AIRCRAFT SALES DURING THE AUGUST, 1973, HAWAII SUMMIT CONFERENCE, EVERYTHING THAT TRANSPIRED WAS CONTAINED IN THE INGERSOLL-TSURUMI STATEMENT ISSUED AT THE TIME. HE SAID THAT MATTERS RELATED TO PRIVATE AIRCRAFT SALES MUST NOT BE A MATTER FOR DISCUSSION AT SUCH MEETINGS AND, IN FACT HAD NOT BEEN. HE DENIED THAT ANY POLITICAL PRESSURES HAD BEEN

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APPLIED AT THE TIME THE DECISION WAS MADE NOT TO PRODUCE

LOCALLY THE PXL AIRCRAFT. HE SAID THAT KENJI OSANO WAS AN OLD FRIEND AND HAD NO CONNECTION WHATSOEVER WITH THESE MATTERS. HE ADDED THAT HE HAD NOT MET YOSHIO KODAMA IN MORE THAN TEN YEARS AND HAD NO CONTACT WITH HIM NOW.

2. TURNING TO THE DIET IMPASSE, TANAKA STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF PASSING THE BUDGET AND URGED LDP UNITY TO OVERCOME THE PRESENT CRISIS. HE SAID HE INTENDED TO COOPERATE FULLY WITH THE LDP LEADERSHIP TO THAT END.

3. TANAKA STRESSED THE NEED FOR A THOROUGH INVESTIGATION OF THE LOCKHEED SCANDAL AND EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THE JAPANESE INVESTIGATION, WITH THE HELP OF US COOPERATION, WOULD LEAD TO A REVELATION OF THE TRUTH.

4. COMMENT. TANAKA AVOIDED ANY CRITICISM OF MIKI OR THE LDP. HIS STATEMENT WAS IN RESPONSE TO MOUNTING DEMANDS FROM YOUNGER MEMBERS OF HIS FACTION TO DISPELL THE RUMORS THAT HAVE BEEN CIRCULATING ABOUT HIS INVOLVEMENT. HIS APPEARANCE HAS NOT EXPOSED HIM TO MORE OPEN SPECULATION, HOWEVER, AND THE CARTOONISTS AND EDITORIAL WRITERS WILL HAVE A FIELD DAY TOMORROW.
HODGSON

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Message Attributes

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